OUTDOOR TRAVEL
THE ACTIVE HOLIDAY COMPANY

# WALKING HOLIDAYS IN THE UK

2027

## SCOTLAND – GLEN COE & THE WESTERN HIGHLANDS

**8-day / 7-night classic one-hotel guided walking beneath the majestic Ben Nevis**

This remote and spectacular region of Scotland lies in the West Highlands beneath the highest mountain in Britain, Ben Nevis. Explore exhilarating sea lochs, narrow mountain ridges and wooded glens, go scrambling beside fast flowing salmon streams with a chance to see herds of red deer and perhaps the rare golden eagle.

Glen Coe has heather-strewn valleys, jagged ridges, rocky outcrops and a host of post-glacial features to explore. If the summit of Ben Nevis is too challenging there are plenty of rewarding alternative easier walks on these popular guided walking holidays, through the Nevis Gorge to Steall Falls, walking pony tracks and old military roads, visiting the Isle of Lismore or following the zigzags of the Devil's Staircase built in 1751 after the Jacobite risings. The area offers some of the best mountain walking in Britain.

This is not just a wilderness - for those with a sense of history Glen Coe has a dark past and a visit to the nearby Visitors Centre and site of the famous massacre of the MacDonalds by the English forces is very humbling.

**Cost from:** **$2610** per person twin share  Single room supplement on request
Mid / high season supplements from **$265 - $670** per person on selected departures

**2027 Departures:** 19, 26 March, 2, 9, 16, 30 April, 7, 21 May, 4, 11, 18 June, 2, 9, 23, 30 July, 6, 13, 20, 27 August, 10, 17, 24 September, 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 October, 12 November

**Includes:** 7 nights in comfortable hotel room with ensuite bathrooms, full board (breakfast, picnic lunch & dinner), cream tea on arrival day, experienced walks leader, 5 guided walks, local transport to/from the walks, evening social activities.

**Not included:** Transport to/from the house (coach transfers at set times from/to Glasgow can be organised at extra cost – please ask when booking), drinks, personal expenses, transport/activities on your free day.

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**Accommodation:** Alltshellach House is a fine Scottish residence, formerly a bishop's house, in a classic Highland location at the edge of North Ballachulish village. It offers excellent facilities including an indoor swimming pool and spa pool, reading room and bar. The accommodation stands amid lawned and wooded grounds sweeping down to the shores of Loch Leven with its superb backdrop of mountains rising to more than 3,000 feet above Glen Coe. The nearest town is Fort William, 13 miles (21km) to the north, a bustling resort close to Ben Nevis. Alltshellach House is easily reached from either Glasgow or Inverness. Transfers are available at set times from/to Glasgow Airport or Glasgow Buchanan Street bus station, at extra cost, ask for details when booking. ***Premium rooms*** may be available for a supplement – please ask when booking.

**Walking Highlights include:**

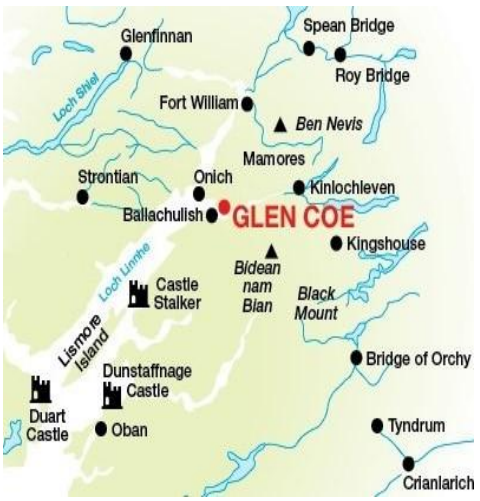
- The awe-inspiring mountains of Lochaber have their challenges, but also great rewards
- An endless variety of routes available, with opportunities to 'bag' a number of Munros
- Stob Ban and the narrow Devil's Ridge, Bidean Nam Bian (the highest peak overlooking Glen Coe)
- An ascent to the mighty summit of Ben Nevis

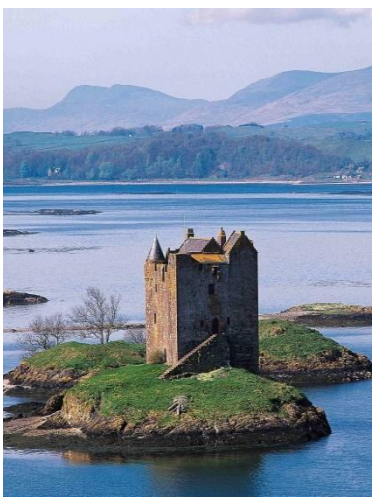
A typical day offers a choice of up to three guided walks of varying length and ascent. If you are new to walking, begin at the easiest level where the pace is the most relaxed and there are plenty of stops to enjoy the views and to rest. As your holiday progresses try a more challenging level or stick to the same level – it's your choice.

We use paths or tracks where possible, occasionally good ones but more often they are rough, perhaps boggy and often have short, steep sections. Easier walks are generally through glens, forest and moorland. Medium walks are generally on good paths though often steep and rocky; Harder walks cover very rocky and intermittent paths. On both Harder and Medium walks, you may sometimes walk exposed sections which may feel airy, or where you might need hands to steady yourself. Some of these walks are described on pages 3 – 4. At this centre we offer several weekly itineraries – ideal if you wish to book a longer holiday or return for a further visit.

On some days the walks start or finish at our Country House, Alltshellach; on other days we use hired transport at the start and/or end of the walks. The cost of all transport to and from the walks is included in the price of your holiday. Your leaders will inform you about the choice of walks for the next day and answer any questions you may have. After a sociable evening meal, you could join in an organized activity such as a quiz or a talk about the geology or history of the local area or simply relax in the bar or use the many facilities.

Each seven-night holiday has a day without any organised walks, so you can relax around the house or nearby loch or explore the Western Highlands independently.





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**Possible day walks from Glen Coe:**
These descriptions should give you a feel for the walks offered but the routes are subject to change. The final walk selection is made by your walk leaders, who will brief you each night about the next day's walking options.

**Glen Coe and the West Highland Way**
The easier route starts in Glen Coe, and we follow woodland trails to the scenic 'Hospital Lochan'. We then head down forestry tracks to the Clachaig Inn, a climber's hostelry steeped in history. Signal Rock, which tradition has as the gathering point for the MacDonalds of Glen Coe in times of emergency, offers an optional historic short loop from here. On the medium walk the rounded summit of Beinn a Chrulaiste, at the entrance to Glen Coe, is the day's objective, for views of Buachille Etive Mor and Rannoch Moor. The harder walk ascends steeply from Glen Coe to the summit of Am Bodach where we are rewarded with panoramic views. A ridgeline walk takes us to the zigzagging Devil's Staircase which we descend to the Kingshouse Inn for a well-earned pint.

**Ben Nevis**
The easier walk skirts Ben Nevis by meandering through dramatic Nevis Gorge to Steall Waterfall (one of Britain's tallest cascades) and Steall meadow. The medium route ascends to the climbers' hut below the north face of Ben Nevis – an opportunity to see up close the towering cliffs of the north face, offering some of Britain's best rock and ice climbing. We contour below the massive Castle Ridge buttress and descend via the Pony Track to Glen Nevis. Those who would like to attain the summit of Ben Nevis, Britain's highest mountain, should choose the harder walk. From Glen Nevis we follow the Pony Track zigzagging up to the summit plateau, which we cross to reach the Trig Point. A big walk, gaining about 4500 feet (1380m) in elevation, but extraordinarily rewarding.

**Remote Ardgour**
The easier route begins at Onich. We follow forest trails towards Inchree with its splendid waterfalls, then take the Corran ferry across the Corran narrows, where Loch Linnhe is forced into a small channel, to Ardgour for a pleasant walk in the grounds of Ardgour House. On the medium walk we too cross on the Corran ferry, then climb the side of the spectacular waterfall of Maclean's Towel to Meall Breac. The harder walk follows a similar route to that of the medium walk, then continues along the ridge to the summit of Sgurr na h-Eanchainne.

**Kentallen peninsula and the hills around Loch Leven**
The easier walk is a lovely ramble around Cuil Bay to the headland of Rubha Mor, where we hope to spot seabirds and seals. We continue along the coast to Kentallen Bay and finish at the Holly Tree Hotel. On the medium walk we take the ferry to the Isle of Lismore, where we visit the picturesque old fishing village of Port Ramsay, a Pictish Broch and the ruins of Castle Coeffin. On a clear day there are far-reaching views across Loch Linnhe towards the mountains of Glen Coe and the Isle of Mull. The harder walk is a rewarding climb to the summits of Sgorr Dhearg, Sgorr Dhonuill, and Sgorr Bhan, with a descent through the wooded valley of Gleann a' Chaolais to Alltshellach.

**Hills and tracks around Kinlochleven**
On the easier walk we ascend to Loch Eilde Mor, a beautiful mountain lake in wild country below the Mamores, then descend via General Wade's 18th century Military Road to the West Highland Way. On the medium walk we start at the southern shore of Loch Leven and climb a quiet ridge path to the summit of Garbh Bheinn. We descend through wild country to join the Old Military Road to Kinlochleven. The harder walk is a superb high-level traverse along the ridge of the Mamores, linking the summits of Sgorr Eilde Beag and Na Gruagaichean.

**Above Loch Leven**
The easier route passes the dramatic Grey Mare's Tail waterfall and follows the Old Military Road along the flanks of Sgurr an Fhuarain to Kinlochleven. The medium and harder walks start from the northern shore of Loch Leven, taking a steep path to a pass on the main ridge. Crossing the ridge, we contour round behind Mam na Gualainn, then descend into the adjacent valley and join the West Highland Way to Kinlochleven. On the harder we walk we continue to the summit of Mam na Gualainn before descending to the West Highland Way.

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**Mountains of Glen Coe**
From Glen Etive the easier walk ascends between the spectacular ridges of Buachaille Etive Beag and Buachaille Etive Mor to the crest of the Lairig Gartain pass with magnificent views down the length of Glen Etive. We follow the pass then join the West Highland Way and walk to the Kingshouse, an old drovers' inn. The medium walk is a circuit of the Buachaille Etive Mor and Buachaille Etive Beag ridges from and back to Glen Coe. The harder walk ascends a steep rocky path up the Coire Altruim, then we follow the undulating ridge to Stob Dearg.

**Below Ben Nevis or the Mamores**
The easier walk begins at the bottom of the Nevis Range Mountain Gondola and heads through Leanachan Forest on the northern slope of Ben Nevis to Inverlochy Castle and other sites of 15th and 17th century battles, finishing in Fort William where there is plenty of time to visit the museum and shops, and to have a coffee or a wee dram in a café or pub. The other walks traverse the ridge of the Mamores; with 10 Munros the Mamores offer some of Scotland's finest mountain walking. The medium walk summits Sgurr an Iubhair on the Ring of Steall, whilst the harder route is a challenging walk with a steep ascent to Stob Ban.

**Ardgour - Strontian and Garbh Bheinn**
On the easier walk, we take the Corran ferry to the Ardnamurchan Peninsula. We start our walk at the one-time lead mining centre of Strontian and follow the river towards the long-abandoned Bellsgrove lead mines below Druim Glas. We return through the Ariundle Nature Reserve, home to elusive pine martens. The medium walk starts at Strontian, ascending on an ancient 'coffin route' to Bealach nan Cairn overlooking Loch Shiel, then we follow the ridge eastwards to Meall Iain, and eventually descend through old mine workings back to Strontian. On the harder route, we walk through forests and along a ridgeline to the rugged summit of Garbh Bheinn.

**The hills beyond Ballachulish**
The easier walk is a loop walk allowing different views of Loch Leven and Loch Linnhe as well as the imposing bulk of Beinn a'Bheithir which dominates the landscape across the loch from our country house hotel. We visit the old railway station and walk on wide tracks through the forest before returning to Alltshellach. On the medium walk we ascend from the southern shore of Loch Leven, first gently then more steeply, to the pink quartzite summit of Sgorr Dhearg, one of the 'Munros' (peak over 3000 feet) we may 'bag' on this holiday. Weather permitting we gain views of Ben Nevis, several Hebridean islands, and the mountains above Glen Coe. On the harder walk we ascend via forestry tracks onto the main ridge of the Beinn a' Bheithir chain. We follow the ridge to the Munros Sgorr Dhearg and Sgorr Dhonuill, which we can see when we return to Alltshellach.

**Outdoor Travel** offer walking holidays – guided in small groups or self-guided with inn-to-inn luggage transfers & meals – in many parts of the UK Ireland & Europe including the **Coast-to-Coast** trail, walks in the **Lake District**, **Snowdonia**, along the Cornish coast, Ireland's **Ring of Kerry**, Provence or the Alps in France or walks in Austria, Spain or Italy. We offer long distance pilgrimage walks like the **Way of St James** or **Camino de Santiago**, from Le Puy in France to Santiago in Spain or the **Via Francigena** – the pilgrims' Road to Rome.

**Contact OUTDOOR TRAVEL for more details and reservations:**

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